

Akrai (Ακραι)



A selection of the images taken during spring 2017, remembering the first series, shot maybe in year 1975, which is a blink of an eye given that these stones are over 2000 years old.

With these pictures started my love for the “old stones”, as I call them. Whenever I come across stonemade testimonies of older times, I try to capture the atmosphere of that past time.

alo, Vitoborg, January 2022

Akrai was among the first colonies of Syracuse founded by Corinthian colonists arriving in Sicilian territory in 663 BC.[3] It was on the road to Gela, along with the Pantalica, Kasmene (military outpost on Monte Lauro), Akrellai and Kamarina (the most distant of the colonies, founded 598 BC). Akrai and Kasmene were founded by the Syracusans: Akrai, seventy years after Syracuse, Kasmenae about twenty years later (c.640 BC). The original colonisation of Kamarina is attributed to the Syracusans, around a hundred and thirty years after the foundation of Syracuse; the founders were called Daskon and Menekolos. Loyal to Syracuse, it nevertheless had its own political life with administrative and military autonomy. Notably, its army intercepted the invasion force of Nicias in the Val di Noto or Anapo in 421 BC, contributing to his defeat.

Constructed on the peak of a hill, Akrai was difficult to attack and at the time of its construction an ideal point for watching the surrounding territory. Indeed, Dion of Syracuse, when marching upon Syracuse, halted at Acrae to watch the effect of his proceedings.[5] By the treaty concluded by the Romans with Hieron II, king of Syracuse (270 - 215 BC), Akrai was included in the dominions of that monarch,[6] and this was probably the period of its greatest prosperity.

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia, www.wikipedia.org

N 37.05802775288981, E 14.894672828869176

The greek Theatre stands on the top of the hill and is the most distinguished monument in the archaeologic site of Akrai. Its construction dates back to the time of Hieron II. The theatre is relatively small but was enough for most of population (7.000 - 10.000 inhabitants). The theatre is made up of eight tiers, nine cuneus and twelve rows of seating, for a total of 700 places. It differs from other Greek theatres because it has not a semicircle upper angular development and it was not out of rock. Another particularity, which makes the Akrai theatre unique, is the semicircular orchestra's shape, which makes the scenes seem incredibly advanced compared to other theatres found in some colonies.

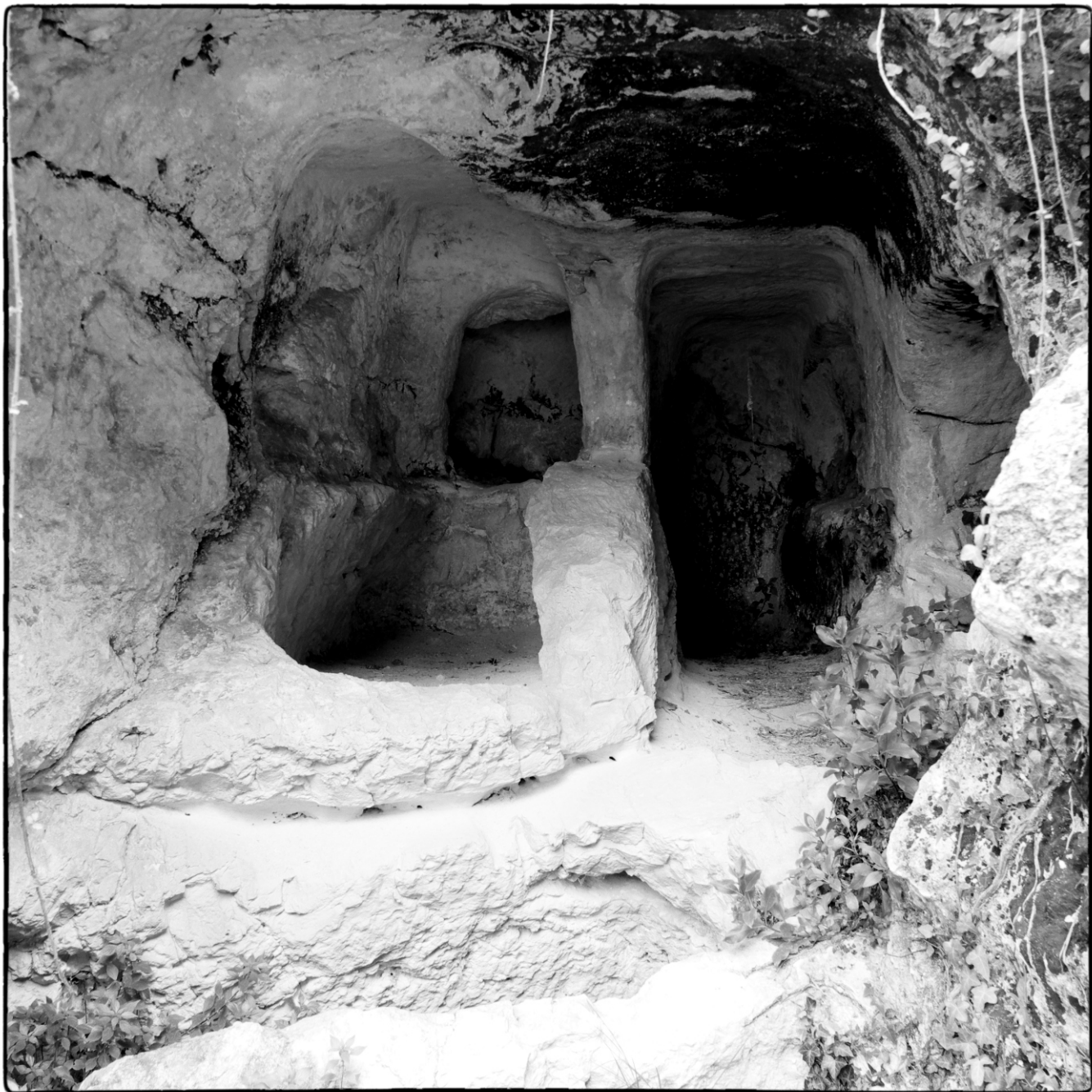
Inclusion in the prestigious World Heritage List UNESCO "Late Baroque Towns of the Val di Noto": Caltagirone, Militello Val of Catania, Catania, Modica, Famous, Palazzolo Acreide, Ragusa Ibla, Scicli.

From: <http://www.palazzolo-acreide.it/eng/index.htm>



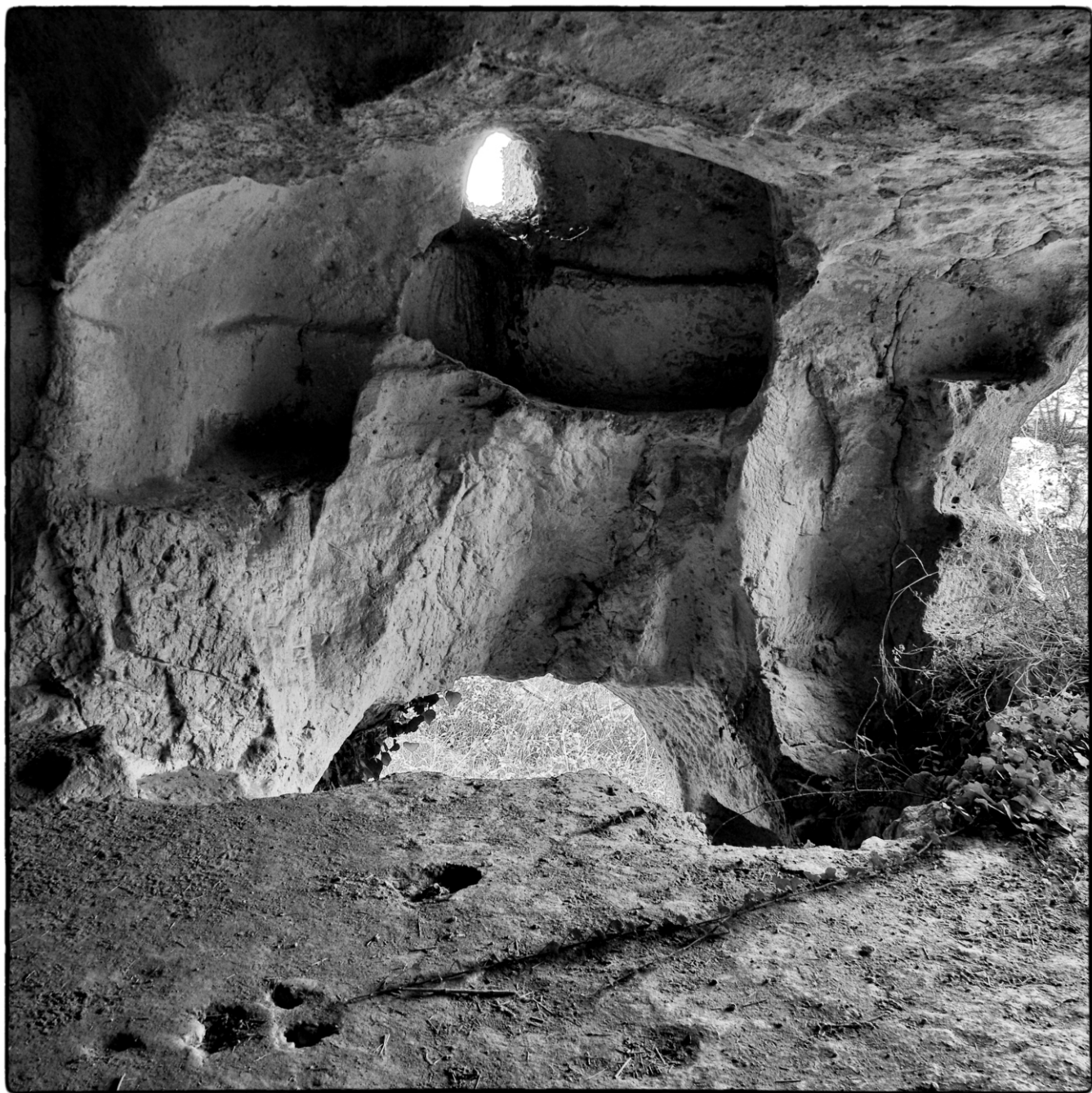




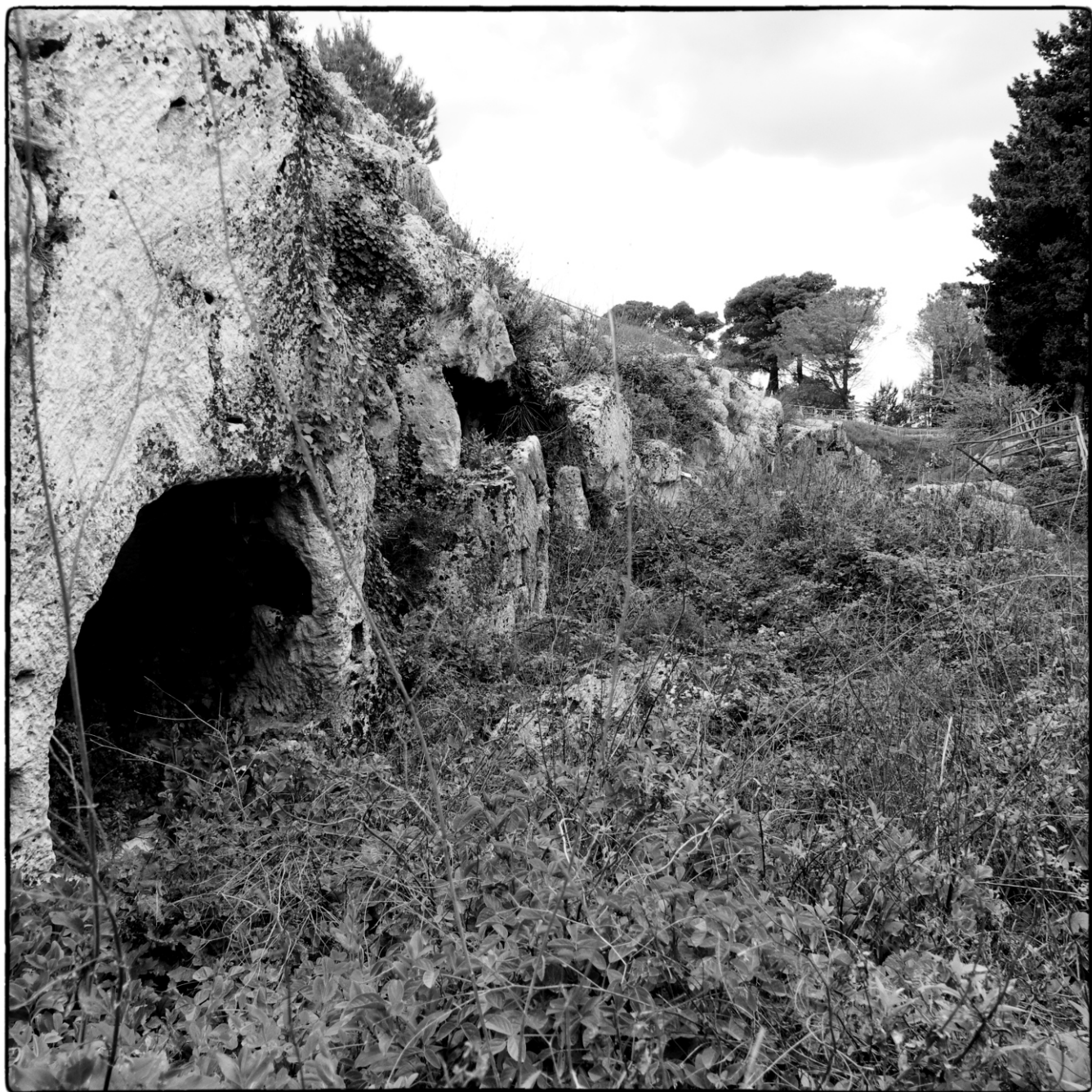




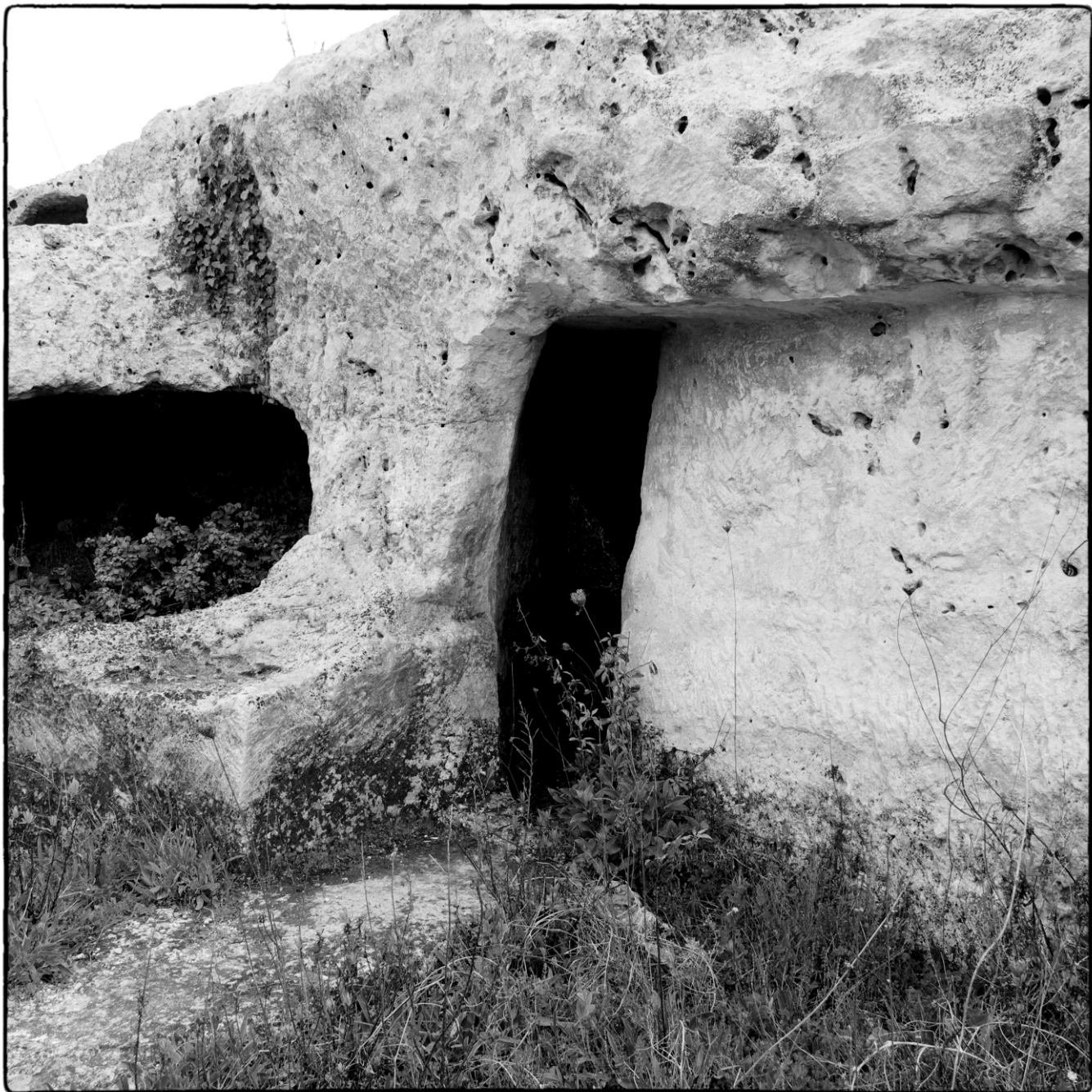






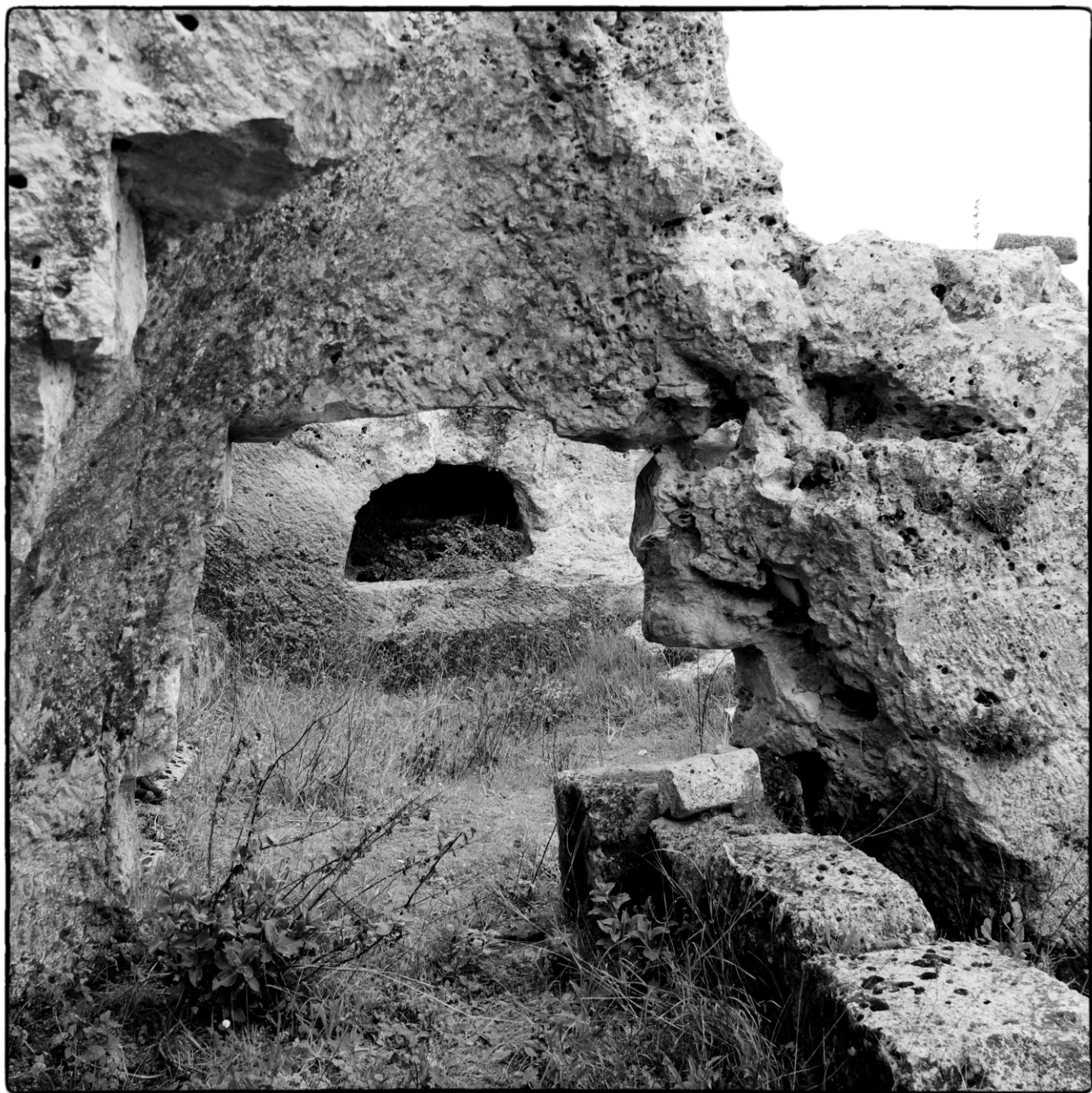






















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